

Commentary

We consider ourselves to be a beacon of light for the community

By Staff of the City-County Observer
SEPTEMBER 2021

Over the years the City-County Observer has strived to serve as a “community watchdog” by sounding the alarm when our citizens’ rights are in danger of being violated by our elected and appointed officials.

We encourage our elected and appointed officials to always consider the welfare of this community. We realize that a community can have no greater ambassador of goodwill than one which keeps its citizens informed about the accomplishments, failures, and triumphs of their elected and appointed officials. The primary focus of this publication is built upon the foundation of our readers for contemporary information in order to enhance their quality of life.

Our mission is to provide vital information concerning social, entertainment, dining, and lifestyle articles for your educational reading pleasure. We will strive to report and inform our readers about important issues that help shape their lives. We will educate and inform you about the competence and triumphs of area restaurants, dining venues, and social atmospheres. We also encourage you to send any and all information to our email to inform our readers about important issues that help shape their lives. Articles concerning weddings, anniversaries, social gatherings, concerts, and other activities are appreciated.

The Constitution of the United States of America is our Beacon of Light. The first amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or

abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The right to assemble and to see redress of grievances is enshrined in our constitution. Over the past several years, we have witnessed both peaceful and violent protests throughout our country. Recently outside groups of anarchist agitators attempted to foment lawlessness and unrest to advance their own objectives and cause anarchy.

We are a nation born of the revolutionary spirit of protest, coupling expressions of grievances against injustice with the desire to be free. However, the publisher and staff of the City-County Observer deplore the theft, looting, and burning of the buildings caused by the random acts of lawless anarchists and



thugs. In fact, we believe these lawless thugs should be arrested and thrown in jail.

Since the “defund the police” movement has taken hold in some large American cities, violent crime has increased more than 300% in many of those cities. The City-County Observer strongly opposes the “defund the police” movement.

The City-County Observer is a member of ACP, Association of Community Publishers.



State notifying Hoosiers about improper access of contact tracing information

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is notifying nearly 750,000 Hoosiers that data from the state’s COVID-19 online contact tracing survey was improperly accessed. The data included name, address, email, gender, ethnicity and race, and date of birth.

The state was notified of the unauthorized access on July 2. Last week, the state and the company that accessed the data signed a “certificate of destruction” to confirm that the data was not released to any other entity and was destroyed by



the company.

When the state was notified of the unauthorized access, the Indiana Office of Technology and IDOH immediately corrected a software configuration issue and requested the records that had been accessed. Those records

were returned on Aug. 4.

“We believe the risk to Hoosiers whose information was accessed is low. We do not collect Social Security information as a part of our contact tracing program, and no medical information was obtained,” said State Health Commissioner Kris Box, M.D., FACOG. “We will provide appropriate protections for anyone impacted.”

The state Department of Health will send letters to affected Hoosiers to notify them that the state will provide one year of free credit monitoring and is partnering with Experian to open

a call center to answer questions from those impacted. In addition, the Indiana Office of Technology will continue its regular scans to ensure information was not transferred to another party.

“We take the security and integrity of our data very seriously,” said Tracy Barnes, chief information officer for the state. “The company that accessed the data is one that intentionally looks for software vulnerabilities, then reaches out to seek business. We have corrected the software configuration and will aggressively follow up to ensure no records were transferred.”

“Be caring, but also be persistent”: American Legion says Afghanistan veterans will need extra support

By Ashlyn Myers
THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM
SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS - The American Legion is urging people to take the steps to understand how much recent events in Afghanistan are impacting those who are currently serving in the military or who have served in the past.

According to a May report by the U.S. Government



Accountability Office, the Veterans Administration’s mental health budget has increased from \$2.4 to \$8.9 billion dollars. This is due to the number of veterans receiving

mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, a number that increased by 90% between 2006 and 2019.

The American Legion, which serves as the nation’s largest veterans’ service organization, says that care will now be more needed than ever. With recent events in Afghanistan, many veterans are becoming more susceptible to PTSD episodes due to all the news coverage. The Legion is recommending that family and friends know the appropriate resources to guide vets who may be struggling with their mental health.

Paul Norton, who serves as District 11 public relations chair, and Ben Olsen, District 11 commander, both have suggestions on how to help the veterans close to you. Olsen recommended that

families get their loved ones in touch with the Veterans Crisis Line. It employs qualified VA responders to answer phone calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll-free number is (800)273-8255, then press 1.

Those who may not feel comfortable talking over the phone also have the option to text the number 838255 or join the online chat at veteranscrisisline.net.

Another resource to learn how to help the veterans close to you is maketheconnection.net. Make the Connection works to connect veterans so they feel less alone in their mental health difficulties. There are a variety of videos from veterans on specific topics as well as a lot of information related to symptoms of PTSD and advice for veterans, from veterans.
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Helping all kids succeed

By Wendy McNamara
SEPTEMBER 2021

Helping all kids succeed, regardless of their circumstances, is a priority of mine. Whether it’s a student struggling in school or a kid in our juvenile justice system, they need opportunities to grow and achieve their goals.

As an educator and chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee, I understand young Hoosiers who end up in the juvenile justice system often face underlying issues, such as homelessness or trauma.

We want better outcomes for these children, that’s why I sponsored a new law improving the state’s juvenile justice system. By automatically expunging juvenile records for certain offenses, no longer sentencing children to adult facilities and establishing a process for youth competency evaluations performed by professionals, we can decrease the risk of physical and mental health issues, and curb recidivism rates.



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Visit Evansville Releases 2022 Destination Marketing and Business Plan

By Jim Woods
PRESIDENT & CEO
SEPTEMBER 2021
Visit Evansville, Vanderburgh County's Convention & Visitors Bureau unveiled its 2022 Destination Marketing and Business plan at their August 26 board meeting, held at the Tropicana Hotel. Visit Evansville's sales, services, and marketing



departments outlined their 2022 goals and strategies by examining past trends, current industry data, and forecasting models such as the Smith Travel Research Industry Forecast Report (STR Report). These efforts will help position Evansville as a premier destination to grow our targeted markets into the future. Plus, it will help us execute the recently released 10-Year Tourism Masterplan, also included in the Destination Marketing and Business Plan. "I am very excited about the direction Visit Evansville is heading in. The staff has worked diligently to develop goals and strategies to help grow the Evansville/Vanderburgh County travel and tourism industry," said Wood.

The Plan contains sales strategies to grow the meetings and convention market and a detailed digital marketing campaign to attract more leisure visitors to the region. Also included in the Plan is information about the Film Evansville initiative, a website designed to promote the

area to film companies and be a resource for those wanting to work with local lighting crews, location experts, and details on obtaining the proper filming permits.

Another driving initiative is to continue growing the youth sports market growth in Evansville. The Evansville Sports Complex (Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex) will launch a new tournament company called Double Play Sports. "With the addition of new synthetic turf at Deaconess Sports Park, we felt the time is right to develop several baseball and softball tournaments during need periods beginning in 2022," said Tim Fulton, Evansville Sports Complex Director. "We will continue to work closely with our tournament organizers to ensure we are filling most weekend dates from April through September," said Fulton.

Visit Evansville is projecting 2022 hotel occupancy to return to numbers before the COVID pandemic. To communicate these forecasts with local hoteliers, government officials, and local attractions/business owners, Visit Evansville will launch its newest communications tool, the E-Tourism Newsletter. This monthly newsletter will include information on hotel bookings, upcoming events, along with sales and marketing promotions. With good communication to our stakeholders, we will better serve our clients and guests now and into the future. Our growth will continue to come from attracting new business but retaining many existing customers is also very important to our hospitality industry's future growth and development.

For more information and to review the Visit Evansville 2022 Destination Marketing and Business Plan online, please go to www.visitEvansville.com.



The power of prayer

By A. Marie Williams, Ph.D.
SEPTEMBER 2021

I doubt anyone has trouble finding things to pray about these days. My list keeps growing, and I suspect that is true for all of us. COVID 19, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, terrorist acts and threats, safety for our troops, concerns for the people in Afghanistan and other parts of the world all loom toward the top. Let's not forget our president, other leaders in our country, and church leaders. In every aspect of our lives, it seems we are surrounded by chaos and division.

My belief that prayer is the only answer to our discontent only continues to grow and strengthen as I age. The form of that prayer has also grown. As a young person, I learned a great number of memorized prayers and Bible stories. However, when I prayed, I always seemed to do all the talking. Somewhere as a middle-aged adult, I finally realized I needed to shut up and listen. This change made all the difference in my prayer life and relationship with God, as well as other people.

Just as, "The poor will always be with us..." I suspect the chaos and suffering in this life will continue. However, I do believe there is much we can do to bring about peace in ourselves that can spread throughout the world.

People of faith unanimously believe that there is great power in prayer, and I certainly agree. However, I have found that the greatest power in prayer is experienced when I can open my mind and heart to the Spirit that has much greater wisdom than I. This sounds easy, but it is really very difficult. It means casting aside my own thoughts, my own judgments, and my own will. It requires an openness to change that can be extremely challenging and uncomfortable.

What if we could all do this? What if we could trust in the Spirit to move us together, to bring us to a place of unity, peace, and joy? Surely, it could make a world of difference in each of us and could change the world.

FOOTNOTE: A. Marie Williams is a retired school teacher, principal, and school superintendent.

Names of the new CCO August subscribers who won a \$100 gift certificate for two at Cavanaugh's



By Staff of the City-County Observer
SEPTEMBER 2021

The names of the individuals who subscribed to the City-County Observer in August who won a \$100 gift certificate to Cavanaugh's Restaurant in a random drawing are:

- 1) DARLENE FLAKE
- 2) STEVE GRAINGER
- 3) MONA WINIGER
- 4) CORRINE POLLARD
- 5) DUSTIN REINGARDT

FOOTNOTE: This certificate doesn't cover the server's tip or cost of alcohol.

You can pick up your gift certificate by contacting Cavanaugh's Restaurant at 812-433-4333 after 4:00 p.m. between Thursday and Friday.

You must provide them with your persona ID. Also, your certificate isn't transferable.

Individuals who subscribe to the City-County Observer in September will be eligible to win a \$100 gift certificate either to Cavanaugh's or Gangnam Restaurant.

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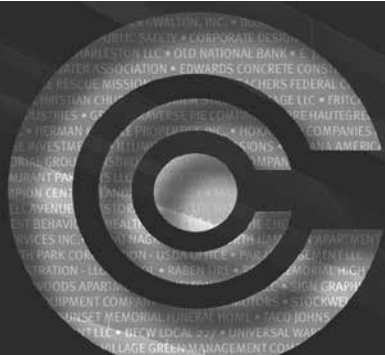
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Community

The HOLA Festival has become a staple of the Evansville region

By Alfonso Vidal
SEPTEMBER 2021

The HOLA Festival has become a staple of the Evansville, IN region highlighting the Latino culture, food, and people that work and live in this community. This event showcases the diversity within our own Latino community to an eager crowd that wants to learn and taste more of this rich heritage.

In its 5th year, the HOLA Festival has built its foundations with financial partners like Center Point and Toyota that again this year have been the fuel that allowed HOLA to start the process of organizing the event. The process started with securing the award-winning entertainment that draws the crowd enthusiastic to have fun, dance and listen to their favorite artists.

Ever since the inception of

the concept of this festival, the HOLA board decided to offer for FREE the food booth spaces. The idea was that free spaces and the opportunity to start selling food to the public would give upcoming Latino entrepreneurs a head-start for their possible restaurants. As a result, restaurants have started operations in this area like Gollita Peruvian Cuisine located in Morgan Ave, Los Alfaro's Restaurant located Weinbach Ave and the newest one Los Miranda Restaurant in Washington Ave. Also, food trucks like Cinia's Salvadorean Kitchen and Taqueria Vargas have operations in Evansville.

The non-for-profit organization HOLA was formed in 2002 as a response to a growing need within the rapidly growing Latino community in Evansville. In its earlier years, HOLA became an

initial bridge between Latinos and many of the organizations and services available in the community. From 2008 to 2013 HOLA, in partnership with Nativity Catholic Church, launched the Juan Diego Latino Center, and developed several programs such as Health Education and Clinics, La Academia, and the HOLA Summer Camp. And in 2016, HOLA launched the HOLA Festival and continues to evolve to best meet the needs of our growing community.

The HOLA Festival has proven to draw a very inclusive crowd and we see the many cultures of southwest Indiana come together inside one of the oldest baseball stadiums in the nation. The festival promotes Evansville as a hub for cultural events across Indiana and beyond. In past years we have had

participation from Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, and as far as Alabama. This event also provides a great opportunity for local organizations, corporations, and many other businesses to connect with the Latino community.

Another key partner in this endeavor is Bosse Field, a jewel piece of Americana that becomes the catalyst to compound diversity and inclusion in our region. This baseball field, just like in the movie "A league of their own", becomes alive to embrace diversity. The old and the new coming together to build an inclusive future that will boost everyone's life to become a better living community together. Evansville's Mayor Benjamin Bosse could not have said it better more than 100 years ago "When everyone Boosts, everyone wins".



Evansville Food Bank receives funding boost

SEPTEMBER 2021

Evansville's Tri-State Food Bank received \$61,700 in state funding to help local Hoosiers in need. The food bank supports Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Perry, Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh, Spencer and Warrick counties.

This funding was provided through the latest state budget, which allocated a total of \$1 million for Indiana's 11 food banks. According to Feeding Indiana's Hungry, the state's food bank association, member food banks will use these funds to carry out much-needed capacity expansions

and purchase additional food to provide more healthy food options to the 900,000 Hoosiers at risk of hunger.

Indiana's regional food banks distribute food and other items daily to Hoosiers in all 92 counties, either directly or through local pantries and soup kitchens.

Volunteers provide around 150,000 hours of service each year to Indiana food banks, which is equivalent to approximately 70 more full-time employees.

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High school students invited to compete in national poetry contest

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Arts Commission just announced that educators and students are invited to sign up to participate in the Poetry Out Loud program.

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program for high school students that encourages the study of poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. The program helps students master public speaking skills and build self-confidence, while also learning more about both classic and



contemporary poetry.

The Indiana Poetry Out Loud state competition will be held virtually in March 2022. The champion will advance to the national finals, to take place in April 2022, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed.

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Gov. Holcomb signs COVID-19 executive orders

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS – Governor Eric J. Holcomb signed Executive Orders 21-22 and 21-23. In Executive Order 21-22, Gov. Holcomb renewed the public health emergency for 30 days. It is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2021.



What now?

By Jim Redwine
SEPTEMBER 2021

The great Greek statesman and military leader Pericles (495 – 429 BC) said, "The best guardians of a society are leaders with the wisdom to recognize their duty and the virtue (courage) to do it." Both elements are essential characteristics for our leaders. We may elect smart people who are not wise and good people who are not brave. But what we need are wise and virtuous leaders who fear loss of honor more than fear of losing elections.

Of course, our leaders are as human as we are. We all fall short of the ideal. It is not perfection we need from our politicians but the ability to recognize it when they have taken the wrong course and the character to

The governor also signed 21-23, which extends the Executive Order specific to COVID-19 through Sept. 1. The short-term extension will allow for ongoing conversations with healthcare stakeholders to evaluate pertinent information

modify their behavior in the face of great pressure to continue on a destructive path. If we apply these standards to America's involvement in Afghanistan, we can see the virtue in our original reactions to the attacks of September 11, 2001. We were morally obligated to our fellow citizens who lost their lives to properly respond. Osama bin Laden was the Al-Qaeda leader who planned the 9-11 attacks. America needed to punish Bin Laden, which we did by assassinating him in Abbottabad, Pakistan, May 02, 2011. Our course of action was morally just and our direct attack on Bin Laden was measured. It took us almost 10 years to bring him to justice but we should have and we did.

Once Bin Laden was eliminated our leaders from President Obama, President Trump and President Biden should have



that supports hospitals during the current COVID surge.

carefully and incrementally withdrawn our military presence while we protected the Afghans and others who helped us. We can still engage in such a process. Any timeline, whether May 01, 2021 or September 11, 2021 or any anniversary of previous attacks or any other date is simply one we choose. We need to carefully and slowly withdraw our forces. Artificial drop-dead dates for our leaving encourage the Taliban to simply wait us out; which they are doing.

It will not be a popular decision of President Biden and our other leaders to reinstall enough troops to protect Americans and those allies of America who need to immigrate. However, popularity should not be our goal, virtue should be.

For more Gavel Gamut articles go to www.jamesmredwine.com

Letter to the Editor: People Rights



By Bob Exline (Permission to Republish)
SEPTEMBER 2021

"Your freedom to swing your fist ends at my nose." This quote, attributed to Oliver Wendall Holmes, describes a reasonable view of personal liberties in a free society. People are free to act until their actions hurt another person. I can swing my fist all I like until I am in a position where it can be reasonably assumed my fist will hit another person's nose.

People in society today have a right to refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and have a right to refuse to wear a mask, as long as they do so in a place where it can be reasonably assumed they won't infect other people when they get the disease. Since many carriers of COVID are asymptomatic, no one can be sure they are not infected. Going into public without a mask, especially if you are unvaccinated, is like swinging your fists wildly in a dark room containing other people. Maybe you won't mean to hit another person, but you would be guilty of battery if someone winds up with a bloody nose.

Please get vaccinated and please wear a mask in public settings. Protect those who cannot be vaccinated or are immunocompromised. Help to keep our schools and businesses open. Help to end the crisis in our community. It is everyone's responsibility to keep COVID away from everyone else's nose.

Indiana Attorney General team returns \$113,023 to Hoosiers at the Indiana State Fair

SEPTEMBER 2021

Attorney General Todd Rokita announced today that he and his staff returned \$133,023 in unclaimed property to Hoosiers at this year's Indiana State Fair. This latest outreach effort brings the

total amount of money returned to Hoosiers in 2021 to \$31,264,893.04.

"The Indiana State Fair is a cherished Hoosier tradition, and one that gives the Indiana Attorney General's Office the opportunity to interact face-to-face with

constituents we serve across the state," said Attorney General Rokita. "I'm proud of our team's work to connect fairgoers with direct service from our office and return unclaimed property back to Hoosier families."



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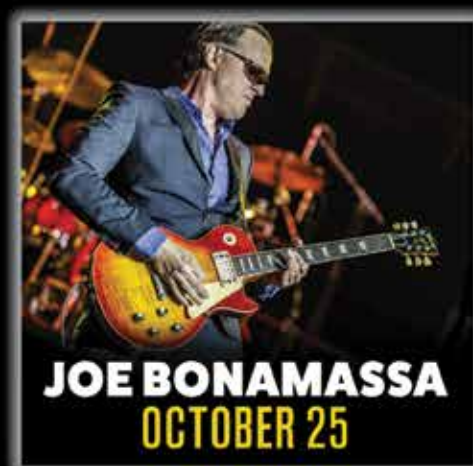
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Five ISP Troopers recognized as Traffic Safety All-Stars

SEPTEMBER 2021

This afternoon, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Executive Director Devon McDonald recognized 65 police officers from around Indiana as Traffic Safety All-Stars for their efforts in working to save lives and put a stop to impaired driving.

Among those recognized were five Indiana State Police Troopers who combined, totaled 558 impaired driving arrests in 2020.



Master Trooper Mick Dockery pictured with Devon McDonald (L), Governor Holcomb (R) and ISP Superintendent Doug Carter far right.



Trooper Israel Rosillo pictured with Devon McDonald (L), Governor Holcomb (R) and ISP Superintendent Doug Carter far right.



Trooper Benjamin Beers pictured with Devon McDonald (L), Governor Holcomb (R) and ISP Superintendent Doug Carter far right.



Trooper Dennis Griffin pictured with Devon McDonald (L), Governor Holcomb (R) and ISP Superintendent Doug Carter far right.



Trooper Justin Mears pictured with Devon McDonald (L), Governor Holcomb (R) and ISP Superintendent Doug Carter far right.

Helping Hoosier Veterans

The brave men and women who serve in our military sacrifice so much for our freedom, and when they return home, they often need additional support as they adjust to civilian life. Seeking employment can be difficult due to disability, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other factors. A new Indiana law ensures more of our struggling Hoosier veterans are eligible for financial assistance.

The Indiana Military Family Relief Fund provides Hoosier veterans experiencing financial hardships with up to \$2,500 in aid. Thanks to a new law I supported, more veterans and their dependents can qualify for help through this fund.

Applicants no longer need to connect their financial hardship directly to their military service and are not required to have served during wartime or at least 12 months of active duty service, which means Indiana National Guard members can benefit. In addition, eligibility is open to veterans discharged generally, honorably or discharged as other than honorable. This emergency grant can be used for needs such as housing, utilities, food, medical services and transportation assistance.

If you've applied for this program before but were denied, I encourage you to apply again now that the eligibility requirements are expanded. Call 317-232-3910, email MFRF@DVA.IN.GOV or Visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website at in.gov/dva and click on Military Relief Fund to apply.

Veterans can also visit in.gov/veterans to find a variety of employment resources provided by the state.

We must always extend a hand to those who serve our nation, especially when they are in need. Thank you to our brave service members and their families. My office is always available to assist our community. Please reach out to me by emailing h75@iga.in.gov or calling 317-232-9769.

COVID-19 grants available for specialty crop growers open September 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), beginning Sept. 1, will seek project proposals from Indiana's specialty crop industry for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. This special round of funding is provided by congressional COVID-19 stimulus funding. Eligible projects must provide industry relief for the impact of COVID-19 and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Indiana, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.

"This additional funding is a welcomed surprise from USDA for our specialty crop growers," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. "I am looking forward to this agriculture sector advancing research, market development, education and training as well as seeing how this industry will best mitigate COVID-19 risks."

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program offers federal funding annually to the state departments of agriculture to support their specialty



crop industries. USDA has allocated an additional \$644,100 to Indiana for this program this year.

Applicants can include non-profit and for-profit organizations, governments and public or private colleges and universities. Special consideration will be given to non-traditional applicant organizations, such as local non-profit and for-profit organizations and governments. Funding will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual.

Projects should explain how they will relieve an impact of COVID-19 on the specialty crop industry and identify at least one expected measurable outcome that specifically demonstrates the project's impact on enhancing the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops. Applicants are encouraged to

develop projects focused on issues such as enhancing food safety, pest and disease control, increasing organic production practices and sustainable growing methods, and developing local and regional food systems. Additional scoring points will be awarded to projects that benefit beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.

ISDA's funding priority will focus on three main areas:

•**Funding Area I:** Market Enhancement

•**Funding Area II:** Access, Education and Training

•**Funding Area III:** Research

"Indiana's specialty crop sector is significant for our agriculture industry and this additional funding is a great opportunity for specialty crop growers," said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. "I would encourage anyone interested to apply and leverage this generous opportunity."

Applications open on Sept. 1, 2021 and are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Oct. 7, 2021. Proposals must be submitted online through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grants Management System.

High school students invited to compete in national poetry contest

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Held in conjunction with Poetry Out Loud, Poetry Ourselves is a statewide original poetry competition for high school students. Any student currently enrolled in grades 9-12 in the state of Indiana can submit one poem to the competition. Award recipients will receive a cash prize and have their poems entered into the

Inverse Indiana Poetry Archive. Poetry Ourselves will again welcome students from across the state to submit their original poetry beginning October 1, 2021.

Educators and students that are interested in the Poetry Out Loud must sign up by November 19, 2021 to participate.

Evansville Food Bank receives funding boost

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In addition to helping member food banks save time and labor costs, volunteering helps raise awareness of hunger in America and promotes community involvement in solving the problem.

Thousands of individuals volunteer at Tri-State Food Bank every year, helping them collect, sort and distribute food to people in need.

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Evansville Civic Theatre announces its 96th season!



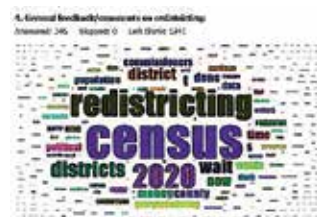
SEPTEMBER 2021
EVANSVILLE - Evansville Civic Theatre is announcing the schedule for its NINETY-SIXTH season of shows!

WHO: Evansville Civic Theatre
WHAT: One of Indiana's oldest arts organizations, Evansville Civic Theatre is set to open its 96th season of productions.
WHEN: Our 2021/2022 season will open September 17.
TICKETS: Cost is \$15.00 (+ a small processing fee), and ticket sales will be available soon at: www.evcivic.org and 812-425-2800.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:
-MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS:
• **"Nonsense"** – opens in September
• **"Dial M for Murder"** – opens in October
• **"Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)"** – opens in December
• **"13" (our Nextwave educational production)** – opens in January
• **"1984"** – opens in April
• **"Into the Breeches"** – opens in May
-UNDERGROUND PRODUCTIONS:
• **"Gross Indecency: The Three Trails of Oscar Wilde"**
• **"Gidion's Knot"**
• **"Not Someone Like Me"**
• **"Gum and the Mother of Modern Censorship"**

Citizens express their disappointment in Indiana's redistricting plan

By Carolina Puga Mendoza
THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM
SEPTEMBER 2021
INDIANAPOLIS - Lawmakers involved in Indiana's upcoming redistricting process faced criticism Friday from Hoosiers who demanded more public involvement.



Various legislators involved in the redistricting process gave Hoosiers an opportunity to voice their concerns as they prepare to release Indiana's redistricting plan.

The first round of public hearings was held in four cities around the state, with citizens invited to voice their concerns and thoughts on the redistricting process. But many charged that the process amounted to gerrymandering and expressed distrust.

At the hour-long public hearing at the Ivy Tech Anderson campus, legislators who attended included Senate Elections Committee chairman Sen. Jon Ford, R-Terre Haute, Rep. Sue Errington, D-Muncie, Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis, Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, Rep. Ann Vermilion, R-Marion, Sen. Erin Houchin, R-Salem, and Sen. Greg Walker, R-Columbus.

Around 20 citizens came up to the podium to speak, some from advocacy groups and others who said they were concerned citizens, using words such as mistrust, frustration, gerrymandering and disaster to express their

thoughts on Indiana's redistricting process.

Republicans, who hold supermajorities in both the Indiana House and Senate, have been facing charges of gerrymandering in the 2011 redistricting process, opinions that became apparent during the hearing.

"Although I've lived in several other states during my life, I want one Republican on this committee to explain to me how it is fair for you to pick your voters and not your voters picking you," said Kathy Badger from Madison County.

Some who testified pointed out how gerrymandering affects minority communities and urged a transparent process to assure all voices are heard.

Some of those testifying said they've never taken part in politics before, including Tom Green, who said he has voted in elections but feels like his vote is being ignored.

"It is time for the politicians to stop choosing their voters and the voters to choose you guys. Do the right thing," Green said.

Others who testified urged a nonpartisan commission to be in

charge of redistricting to ensure fairness. But the most common request was to involve the public in decision making and to be transparent every step of the way.

During the hearing at the Ivy Tech Lafayette campus, college and high school students attended to speak about the value of government and how they feel their votes are forgotten. Catherine Wilcox, a student at West Lafayette Junior High, pointed out the lack of response from lawmakers on citizens' concerns as well as the public's doubts about the government.

"I am becoming more unsure of the actual value you place on Hoosier voices themselves," Wilcox said.

"Yes, you put on this [hearing] for us, which I'm very grateful for, to air our concerns, but you haven't given us any feedback or reassurance that these real concerns will be dealt with. Unlike the districting process in Indiana, I am choosing to be very direct with you as a constituent who is under 18 years of age. I am asking for your voice, for explanation and for ... clarity. I hope that you will be brave enough to give it to us."

FOOTNOTES: Carolina Puga Mendoza is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

The City-County Observer posted this article without bias or opinion.

Vanderburgh County lawmakers: "POWER SCHOLARSHIP" applications now open

SEPTEMBER 2021
STATEHOUSE - Vanderburgh County lawmakers invite local nontraditional female students to apply for a scholarship through the Political Organization for Women's Education and Representation.

Scholarship recipients could include women who are returning to school after a hiatus, changing careers, seeking advancement in their career or work life, and stay-at-home moms entering the workplace who are in need of additional education or training. This scholarship is not intended for recent high school graduates or women who are eligible for or have already received other significant financial aid.

"Indiana is home to so many strong, smart women who can benefit from this scholarship, expand their education, and make a positive impact on their communities and our state," said State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville). "These recipients have certainly earned this

financial help on their path to success."

A bipartisan selection committee awards 18 scholarships – two from each congressional district – of \$750 each. The scholarship check will be made directly to the institution with instructions to apply the funds to the student's current account to pay for school tuition, books and fees.

"Scholarship recipients have a vision to succeed as they go back to school and advance their careers," said State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville). "Many applicants are already strong role models who are accomplishing great things in their communities,"

-continued on page 15



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Drug Recognition Experts recognized for Impaired Driving Enforcement

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS - Announced today, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute recognized 23 law enforcement officers as part of the annual Indiana Drug Recognition Expert Awards Program. A drug recognition expert (DRE) is a police officer who has received specialized training to help identify drivers under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Now in its sixth year, the awards program was created by the agency to recognize the contributions made by Indiana's DREs. In total, ICJI presented 18 longevity awards for years of service, two leadership awards for going above and beyond and two emeritus awards for contributions made in retirement. Awards were also presented to one officer based on the number of evaluations conducted and to Louisiana-based J.O. Jones Consulting, LLC, for its support of the program.

"Drug recognition experts are critical to taking impaired drivers off the road," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Their efforts have saved countless lives, and it was an honor to recognize their service and commitment to public safety."

Every year, two leadership awards are presented to one officer and one instructor.

Formerly known as the DRE Officer of the Year and DRE Instructor of the Year, the awards were renamed in 2017 in honor of fallen DRE officers: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer David Moore, who was killed in the line of duty in 2011, and Indiana State Police Lieutenant Gary Dudley, who was struck and killed while participating in a charity bike ride for the Indiana chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors in 2006.

This year, the Officer David Moore DRE Officer of the Year Award was presented to Indiana State Police Trooper Noah Ewing. Ewing, a Pennsylvania native, has been with Indiana State Police for 5 years. After graduating from the 75th Indiana State Police Recruit Academy in 2015, he was assigned to the Jasper Post patrolling Orange County.

Ewing completed his DRE certification in 2019, and although relatively new to the program, for the past two years, he has conducted the most DRE evaluations out of any officer in the state - 35 in 2020. This honor adds to the growing list of awards Ewing has received over the past couple of years including the Jasper District Trooper of the Year, Jasper District's Top OWI Trooper and the Life Saving Award.



"Our drug recognition experts and instructors are some of the most committed officers in the state," said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "They have devoted their entire careers to stopping impaired driving and have acquired the skills and training in order to do so."

The Lt. Gary Dudley DRE Instructor of the Year Award was presented to Officer Michael Wittl with the Avon Police Department. Wittl began his career with the department after graduating from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 2003. He completed his DRE certification in 2007 and became an instructor the following year. Wittl assumed the duties of Assistant State Coordinator in 2017.

Last year, Wittl was responsible for managing two DRE courses and their accompanying field certifications. In addition, he managed two Standard Field Sobriety Testing Instructor

Development courses and instructed numerous Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement courses. He received the award this year, not only for those efforts, but also for his devotion to public safety and mentoring DRE officers statewide.

Indiana DRE Program Coordinator Marshall Depew commended the award recipients. He said the program was created in 1988 in Indiana to enhance enforcement effectiveness and that there are approximately 200 DRE certified officers in the state.

"DREs represent some of the best and brightest of Indiana's law enforcement community," Depew said. "They are a true testament to the program and are out there every day working to save lives and keep dangerous drivers off the road."

The 2021 award recipients were recognized at a ceremony held last Friday in the Youth Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.



SEPTEMBER 2021

Indiana's law enforcement officers work hard to protect all Hoosiers and deserve the tools and training to do their jobs. As chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee, I also want to ensure we have strong laws that protect victims of crime.

Recently, Gov. Eric Holcomb

ceremonially signed new laws I authored and sponsored to promote public safety throughout Indiana.

After meeting with Evansville law enforcement, I authored a law allowing emergency transport of an injured K-9 officer. Minutes matter in medical situations and this change could save the lives of operational canines.

Evansville to switch water disinfectant Aug. 16-Oct. 4

SEPTEMBER 2021

EVANSVILLE - Starting in mid-August and continuing for about seven weeks, you may notice a slight change to the odor of your tap water. The change is related to a switch in the disinfectant in the water treatment process to ensure the delivery of high-quality, safe drinking water to Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) customers.

The switch to free chlorine from the regularly used disinfectant chloramine will begin on Monday, August 16, and continue until Monday, October 4. Many water utilities use this common preventive maintenance practice to keep water mains clean and free of potentially harmful bacteria throughout the year. EWSU switches disinfectants twice a year. The first switchover happened in May and June.

Here's what you should know

What is Chloramine?

Chloramine is a disinfectant used in drinking water to remove bacteria and viruses that can make you sick. It is made up of chlorine and ammonia. EWSU has used chloramine as the disinfectant in its water treatment process since 1999.



New rules strengthen public safety

I also sponsored a law enhancing the penalty for domestic battery when there is a no-contact or protection order issued by the court. Violators can now face felony charges. We also expanded the

successful High Tech Crimes Unit Program to help law enforcement gather and process digital evidence to solve more crimes.

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Education

Ivy Tech Community College named in Top 100 Ranking of America’s Best Employers for Women

SEPTEMBER 2021

INDIANAPOLIS – Ivy Tech Community College was named in the annual Top 100 ranking of America’s Best Employers for Women by Forbes, which teamed up with market research company Statista. The rankings identify the companies liked most by female workers and included representation at the executive and board levels, as well as initiatives to improve gender equity and recent or unresolved allegations regarding discrimination or misconduct.

“I am honored to be a part of Ivy Tech serving as its first female president and working alongside the talented and dedicated

faculty and staff as we are recognized as a top employer for women,” said Sue Ellspermann, Ivy Tech President. “Women comprise not only our faculty and staff, but also our leadership at Cabinet levels, campus leadership, and our State Board of Trustees.”

Ivy Tech was one of 21 educational institutions listed in the category and one of two that identified as a community college.

“I am thrilled to see Ivy Tech named as a top employer for women,” said Stephanie Bibbs, Ivy Tech State Board of Trustees Chair. “Ivy Tech continues to be a trailblazer in recognizing exceptional talent at every level in

higher education. I’m delighted to serve as Chair of the State Board and to work with such amazing individuals who have made this recognition possible.”

Ivy Tech females make up 59 percent of nearly 4,000 employees, with 64 percent as full-time, 54 percent as part-time, and 50 percent identified as leadership.

Sixty percent of females are full-time faculty and 40 percent represented on the State Board of Trustees.

About Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana’s largest public postsecondary institution and the nation’s largest singly accredited statewide community college system, accredited

by the Higher Learning Commission. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana and also serves thousands of students annually online. It serves as the state’s engine of workforce development, offering associate degree and short-term certificate programs, and trainings that align to the needs of the community. The College also offers courses and associate degree programs that seamlessly transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana, as well as out of state, for a more affordable route to a Bachelor’s degree.



US ranked a Top 100 Best College for Veterans

SEPTEMBER 2021

The University of Evansville has been ranked among the top 100 best colleges for veterans by College Consensus. The complete list of schools was published to the organization’s website for 2021.

To establish the rankings, College Consensus used a method that combined ratings from internationally recognized publishers (publisher rating) as well as student reviews (student review rating). To qualify for the report, a college must be a Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges member, have a recognized student veteran organization, be a Yellow Ribbon Program participant, employ dedicated support contact for veterans, and offer credit for military training.

“Our student veterans are a valuable asset to our campus

community,” said Tracey Y. Folden, PhD, assistant vice president for academic affairs. “Their unique work and life experience as prior service members enriches the academic culture.”

In addition to free tuition through the Yellow Ribbon Program, UE offers constant support to student veterans for an engaging college experience. Throughout their college careers, student veterans can receive one-on-one assistance with advising, tutoring, and résumé and interview preparation. The student organization UE VETS (Veterans Education Transition Support) connects veterans and ROTC cadets for a smooth transition to campus life.

“The resources that UE has made available to veterans have been exemplary,” said Jordan Wright, a student veteran majoring in finance. Wright served in the Navy from 2007-2011. “My experience at the University has been everything I hoped it would be.”

U.S. News & World Report recognized UE as the #2 Best College for Veterans in the Midwest for 2021. The University has also been previously recognized by U.S. Veterans Magazine and Military Times as a top college for veterans.

“For many transitioning veterans, the process can be a very overwhelming and scary experience,” said Neal Quick, a class of 2022 student veteran. “UE has shown me that they genuinely care about veterans, and they have made becoming an Ace one of the easiest processes to accomplish while going through so many changes.”

College Consensus is an online organization that highlights the best college programs and degrees offered in traditional and online formats. Studies recognize both public and private institutions at the undergraduate and graduate levels. You can read the complete report about the best colleges for veterans on their website.



New funding for schools

By Vaneta Becker

Many students are heading back to school, and thanks to the new state budget passed this year, our education system is seeing a \$1.9 billion increase in funding over the next two years.

This includes a \$196 million increase in special education funding, a \$5 million increase for non-English

speaking learners, and an increase in the per-student funding to schools educating students in poverty.

Additionally, while teacher pay is negotiated between local school boards and their teachers, the new budget requires schools to spend at least 45% of their regular state funding on teacher salaries and encourages each school to set its starting teacher pay at no less than \$40,000.

Unfortunately, the learning disruptions Hoosier students experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll, and that was made clear in the 2021 ILEARN results. Recognizing this would be the case, the legislature proactively passed House Enrolled Act 1008, which I sponsored, to create the Student Learning Recovery Grant Program and Fund to provide \$150 million in grants for recovery learning and rehabilitation for eligible students in K-12 education.

In addition to the new funding from the state, Hoosier schools are also receiving more than \$3 billion in federal stimulus money.

Given these large funding increases, I believe our Hoosier schools should be well-equipped to begin addressing the significant learning loss caused by the pandemic. Making up ground in core areas such as reading and math is absolutely critical to setting our students up for success in the years ahead.

Clark tapped as 2021-22 Shield Editor-In-Chief



SEPTEMBER 2021

Shelby Clark, a University of Southern Indiana sophomore majoring in marketing, will serve as the Editor-in-Chief for *The Shield*, USI’s independent student newspaper, for the 2021-22 academic year.

As Editor-in-Chief, Clark will be responsible for the overall operations for the media outlet. She will plan and conduct weekly editorial board and budget meetings, determine the content of the website and email newsletter and meet with the sales and marketing director to set editorial content and advertising distribution.

“While the student publication is independent of the university, it does seek to help students by highlighting the university’s strengths and providing a voice for issues and ideas that affect the campus community,” said Clark. “These issues are not limited to the diverse student body but also represent the wider views of the campus employees and population as a whole.”

Prior to her appointment as Editor-in-Chief, Clark worked as Digital Editor and Staff Writer for *The Shield*. She is involved in the Honors Living Learning Community, Students for Life and volunteers for Greater Grace Apostolic Church.

Clark’s primary goal for *The Shield* is growth, both in size and in impact, with all four colleges and as many student organizations as possible represented on staff. “*The Shield’s* content should represent the interests of the campus community and will increase our relevance to our audience,” said Clark.

Applications for positions are available online or in *The Shield* office. To get involved, call 812-465-1682, or visit the office in the lower level of University Center East, Room 227.

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Together we can protect our children and help keep our community safe



By Stephen Swinney, MD, MBA, FACP
Chief Clinical Officer, Ascension St. Vincent
At Ascension St. Vincent, it is heartbreaking for our pediatric providers and care teams to see children facing life-threatening medical conditions due to exposure to COVID-19, especially now, when this outcome could have been prevented.

As a community, we must do everything we can to protect people – especially children – from contracting this virus. We must continue using a multi-layered approach to protect ourselves and each other as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The most effective ways to do that are for every eligible adult and child 12 years of age and over to get vaccinated and to wear masks when indoors or in crowded areas.

The facts are simple and irrefutable. Vaccinations are safe and effective. Almost all of the patients being treated for COVID-19 across Indiana hospitals are unvaccinated. Breakthrough cases among those vaccinated are extremely rare, occurring in less than 1 percent of cases, and these individuals almost never require hospitalization. Masking is proven to help reduce the spread of the virus.

As a healthcare provider and as a Catholic ministry, advocating for critical public health measures is part of our Mission to serve the people of Indiana.

Right now, children under the age of 12 are not eligible to be vaccinated. It is our responsibility as adults to do everything we can to protect our vulnerable youth and prevent outbreaks of the coronavirus in our schools and communities. Ultimately, vaccinations and masking help to protect all of us. While many children who contract COVID-19 may not develop serious symptoms themselves, they can easily pass the virus to family members, classmates and teachers, many of whom could face serious or deadly consequences. And, as the highly contagious Delta variant has shown us, we face the risk of continued mutation of the coronavirus as case counts surge.

Our providers and care teams face two heartbreaking realities today: treating high-risk children fighting COVID-19 and advising parents on the difficult decision to send children back to in-person learning or face another year of virtual courses. Both of these situations can be avoided if more of us practice all mitigation measures including social distancing, masking, hand washing and, most importantly, getting vaccinated.

Our children deserve a safe return to in-person learning. And all of us deserve to live and work in safe and healthy environments. If we work together, we can achieve these goals.

University of Southern Indiana approved as Charter School Authorizer

Expansion of educational boundaries envisioned

The University of Southern Indiana has been approved as a charter school authorizer by the Indiana State Board of Education. The University's vision for chartering is guided by its strategic plan and institutional vision – to be a recognized leader in higher education boldly shaping the future and transforming the lives of our students through exceptional learning and intentional innovation.

"As an authorizer, USI will play a role in expanding educational opportunities for students in urban and rural areas," noted Dr. Mohammed Khayum, USI Provost. "Our intention is to improve families' access to quality charter schools, provide school communities the autonomy they need for schools to excel, and hold schools accountable for their performance."

Authorizers are the entities that decide who can start a new charter school, set academic and operational expectations, and oversee school performance. They also decide whether a charter should remain open or close at the end of its contract.

USI oversight as a charter authorizer will begin with the Indiana Agriculture and Technology School which opened in 2018 and is based in Central Indiana with a farm campus near Trafalgar and additional campus expansions in the southern and northern regions of the state. The tuition-free charter school is currently the

educational home to 234 students in the seventh through twelfth grade.

"Through hands on and project-based agriculture and technology curriculum, both face to face and online, our goal is to grow and expand the educational boundaries in our state," said Keith Marsh, Indiana Ag and Technology School Executive Director. "We share USI's goal to elevate visibility and reputation through exceptional education offered through regional campuses."

One area of potential growth for the ag and tech school is in Evansville. Formed in 1998, Joshua Academy is a pre-K through 6th-grade school which has been incorporating plant and animal-based agriculture and agri-business into their students' education. As they look to grow, Indiana Agriculture and Technology School's curriculum has appeal.

"As Indiana Ag School looks to establish an Evansville location, we are eager to partner with them and our long-time partner USI, to make quality seventh through twelfth-grade ag education available for our students who chose to consider that as their next step," remarked Rev. Larry Rascoe, Joshua Academy Founder.

Primary oversight of authorization duties will be managed by a USI employee reporting to the Provost's Office.



University of Evansville awarded Elevate Nexus Grant

EVANSVILLE - The University of Evansville (UE) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Elevate Ventures to support entrepreneurship programming and curriculum. The funding, which is channeled through the Elevate Nexus program, is designed to strengthen bonds among higher education institutions, community partners, and entrepreneurs. UE was one of four recipients, which also included Ball State University, Indiana Institute of Technology (Indiana Tech), and Indiana University School of Medicine.

UE will use the grant to create MakerspACE, a three-pronged entrepreneurial program that provides access to innovative training and support for K-16 students. The program will address cultural challenges in the region, provide support to teachers, and build an innovative ecosystem on and off the UE campus.

The Center for Innovation & Change (CIC) at UE will create an on-campus summer institute for K-16 teachers and University professors in 2022. This institute will train individuals to utilize design thinking and infuse problem-solving activities into existing curricula. The CIC plans to offer this summer workshop for educators at no cost to them.

The makerspace will be housed inside the CIC office on the campus of UE. Here, students will have access to design thinking, 3D printing, light prototyping, business canvas assistance, and graphic design. This will allow students to visualize ideas and bring projects to life, particularly through prototypes. CIC staff can also connect students with a wider range of more advanced resources, for those who want to continue their pursuit of innovation and product development.

"We are so excited to generate innovation support for the educators in this region," said Erin Lewis, executive director of the Center for Innovation & Change. "Southern Indiana has many talented individuals who want to improve the quality of life for everyone. UE can now be an even bigger part of the process to support them and bring their ideas to life."

Elevate Nexus Higher Education Grants are made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration. A total of \$600,000 has been awarded. The funding enables higher education institutions to launch and improve programming to support the

growth of Indiana startups.

"In the last three years, we have seen some exceptional proposals-all of which foster entrepreneurship and innovation across the campus and in the communities they serve," said Landon Young, executive director of the Elevate Nexus program. "We are seeing the successful execution of programs, the building of cross-campus ecosystems, and high-potential companies starting and growing. I look forward to the future success these universities see from the



programming they were able to launch and expand."

To stay apprised of additional and future programs provided by Elevate Nexus, visit elevateventures.com.

Andrew W. Wilson named Vice-Chair of IVY TECH Board of Trustees

EVANSVILLE - Stephanie Bibbs has been named the Chair of the Ivy Tech Community College State Board of Trustees. Bibbs is the first Black woman to serve as the Chair of the Ivy Tech Board.

Bibbs is a native of Indiana with more than seventeen years of legal experience in the public and private sectors. She is a fierce advocate for justice and has dedicated her career to the pursuit of equality and justice for all. She is currently the Chief of Criminal Charging for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

"Access to education has and will always be a vital part of moving our communities forward. Ivy Tech is essential in providing the proper credentialing and skilling up students to meet the demands of our Hoosier workforce. I'm honored to serve

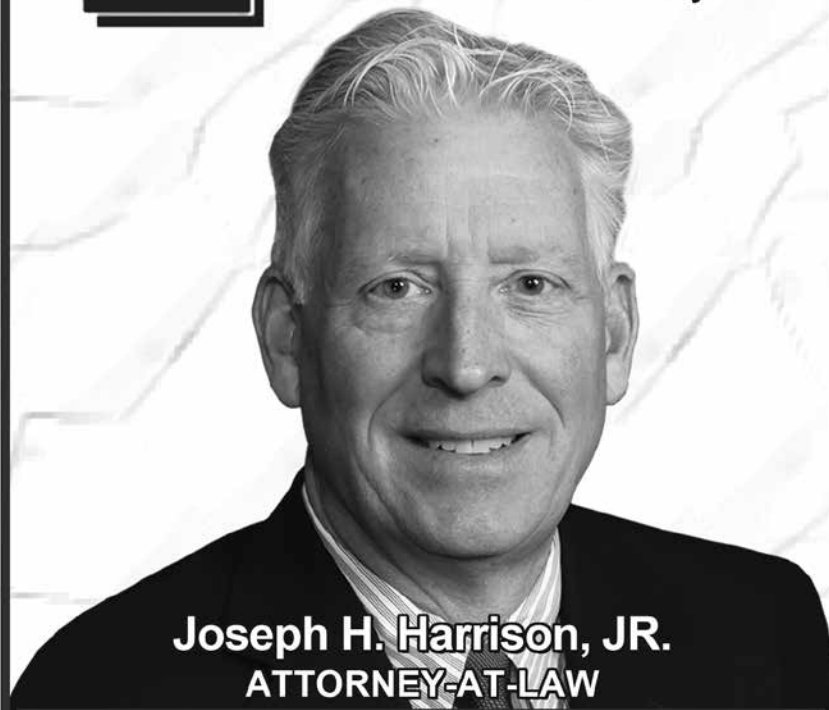
on the Board in this capacity and look forward to continuing the great work of my predecessors," said Bibbs.

Bibbs replaced Terry W. Anker as the Chair after he served in that role for two years. "Trustee Bibbs brings a great commitment to improving the lives of Hoosiers. Her experience and personal dedication will go far in helping to advance the good work of Ivy Tech Community College, it's students, faculty, and staff," Anker said.

The State Board also announced Andrew W. Wilson as vice-chair and Kim Emmert O'Dell as secretary.



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Sports

Indiana Swimming and Diving announces 2021-22 Schedule IU to face 10 teams from NCAA Top-25 Standings



SEPTEMBER 2021
BLOOMINGTON, IN – Indiana head swimming coach Ray Looze announced the 2021-22 swimming and diving schedule on Wednesday afternoon. The schedule features dual meets against 10 teams that finished in the top-25 at the 2021 NCAA Championships and five meets at the Counsilman-Billingsley

Aquatic Center (CBAC).
The season will kick off with the annual Cream and Crimson intrasquad meet on Oct. 1. The first official meet of the season will be a women's only tri meet against reigning Southeastern Conference champion Kentucky and Indiana State on Oct. 6 at the CBAC.
The full squad will then hit the road for a dual against Northwestern on Oct. 16 in Evanston, Ill. The men will then continue to Columbus, Ohio for a quad meet against Ohio State, Penn State and Virginia Tech in one of the more highly anticipated team meets of the winter season. The meet will be held from Oct. 29-30.

Both teams will travel back to Columbus for the OSU Invite from Nov. 18-20 before wrapping up the 2021 portion of the season with a dual against Cincinnati on Dec. 3 back in Bloomington. The meet will mark the first at the CBAC for the men's team.
The month of January will bring four dual meets for the swimming and diving programs. The teams will be on the road at Michigan (Jan. 8) and at Louisville (Jan. 14) before finishing the regular season with home meets against Purdue (Jan. 22) and Evansville (Jan. 28).
The 2022 Big Ten Women's Swimming and Diving Championships will be held from

Feb. 16-19 in Madison, Wis., hosted by the Wisconsin Badgers. The 2022 Big Ten Men's Swimming and Diving Championships will be held the following week (Feb. 23-26) in West Lafayette on the campus of Purdue.
Both the 2022 NCAA Women's and Men's Swimming and Diving Championships are set to be contested in Atlanta. The women will compete first (March 16-19) with the men heading south the following week (March 23-26). Both meets will be held at the McAuley Aquatic Center, the site of the Olympic Games Atlanta 1996 and current home of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

USI tabs Dave Turpin to lead men's golf program

SEPTEMBER 2021
University of Southern Indiana Athletics announced that it has picked Evansville native Dave Turpin to lead its men's golf program.
"We are excited to have Dave lead our men's golf program," USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall said. "He is very well connected in the Southern Indiana golf community and, most importantly, is committed to the individual and collective growth of the young men in our program."
Turpin comes to USI with a more than 20 years of amateur golf experience, including five Major Champion wins on the National Amateur Golf Tour (Championship Flight) and an 11th-place national finish in 2019.
A competitor in the Evansville City Golf Tournament for more than 20 years, Turpin was the 2021

Evansville Senior City Champion as well as the 2015 Evansville Country Club Champion.
In addition to his amateur golf resume, Turpin has spent more than 20 years as a basketball coach at Mater Dei and as a baseball umpire at the high school, JUCO and NCAA levels.
Turpin, who resides in Evansville with his wife LaDonna, earned a bachelor's degree from USI in business administration as well as a master's degree in engineering management. He is a semi-retired sales consultant and has two kids, Alex Turpin and Austin Campbell.



UE men finalize 2021-22 non-conference XSlate

Purple Aces ready to get back on the court

SEPTEMBER 2021
EVANSVILLE – An exciting non-conference schedule awaits the University of Evansville men's basketball team with the season approaching in less than three months.
A balanced lineup features high-profile home opponents, challenging road contests and a trip to Fort Myers, Florida for the Gulf Coast Showcase.
Purple Aces head coach Todd Lickliter is excited about the schedule and the challenges that will help his team heading into Missouri Valley Conference play.
"We are excited about the many opportunities our non-conference schedule presents," he said. "Our goal was to challenge ourselves as we continue to build. We believe this schedule will prepare us to play well in the MVC as well as at Arch Madness."
Preseason action includes a pair of home exhibition contests which begins on Saturday, October 30 against Mount. St. Joseph. Five days later (11/4), the Aces will face Kentucky Wesleyan in their final tune-up before the start of the regular season.
For the first time since 1990, UE will take on the University of Cincinnati. The regular-season opener is set for Tuesday, November 9 in Cincinnati. The 2019 American Athletic Conference Champions won 20 games in 2019-20 before going 12-11 a season ago. Evansville has won two of the last three matchups versus the Bearcats while UC took the last game in December of 1990 by a final of 58-48 at Roberts Stadium.

2021 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
IUPUI will mark the home opener on Nov. 11. This will mark the fifth meeting between the program with the Aces taking the first four contests. The squads last met in 2019 at Indiana Farmers Coliseum with UE earning a 70-64 road win. On Nov. 13, UE will be back on the road for a contest at Belmont. The Bruins are coming off a stellar 26-4 campaign, which ended with a hard-fought loss to Morehead State in the Ohio Valley Conference championship game. In four previous meetings, each team has picked up a pair of wins. In the lone meeting in Nashville, the Aces grabbed a 65-62 win in 2014.
Two home games follow with Evansville welcoming DePauw to the Ford Center on Nov. 16. The Tigers from Greencastle, Ind. won 12 of their 13 games a year ago. The University of Central Florida heads to Evansville for its first-ever contest against the Aces on Saturday, Nov. 20. UCF won 11 games in 2020-21 including triumphs over #15 Florida State and Auburn. The Knights reeled off a 24-9 campaign in 2018-19 and gave Duke all it could handle in the NCAA Tournament before falling by a 77-76 final.
Next up is the Gulf Coast Showcase. The Aces make the trek
-continued on page 14



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USI tabs Kainer as Inaugural Swimming & Diving Coach

SEPTEMBER 2021
EVANSVILLE - University of Southern Indiana Athletics announced the hiring of Cameron Kainer (Ki-ner) as the head coach of the new Swimming & Diving program that is set to start competing in 2022-23.

"USI is very excited to have Cameron lead our new programs," said USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall. "He has extensive experience at the Division II level as a student-athlete and coach. We believe that Cameron is the right person to build the foundation for USI Swimming & Diving."

"I am very excited and blessed to be named the first head swimming and diving coach at USI," said Kainer. "I have seen the success this department has had under the direction of President (Ronald) Rochon, and (Jon Mark) Hall and the commitment USI is making towards building its swimming and diving program."

"Seeing the new aquatic facility being built this past year made me hopeful that the addition of the team was imminent," continued Kainer. "I am so thankful USI made the commitment to add the program."

"I would like to thank President Rochon and Mr. Hall for their time and efforts during the process and their labors to get this program off the ground," said Kainer. "I also would like to thank Mandi Fulton and the search committee for their work during this hiring process."

"The swimming and diving landscape in

Indiana and the Midwest is booming with talent and I look forward to recruiting the finest student-athletes to represent USI and the Evansville community," concluded Kainer.

Kainer comes to USI from the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he was the head coach in 2020-21. In his only season with the Nanooks, he led Alaska Fairbanks to its first dual-meet win since 2018-19 and a 2-1 dual-meet record. The 'Nooks also placed seventh in the Pacific Coast Swimming Conference (PCSC) Championships.

Prior to making the move to Alaska Fairbanks, Kainer served as the men's and women's swimming and diving head coach at his alma mater, the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB), from 2013 to 2020. He was an impressive 52-20 in overall in dual meets (27-11 in men's; 25-9 in women's).

Under Kainer's leadership, the UTPB Falcons broke all men's and women's swimming records and produced 24 NCAA Division II "B-Cut" times. He also helped direct UTPB to 38 PCSC Championship "A-Cut" finalists and the 2013 conference championship.

Following UTPB's move to the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference, Kainer's squad tallied 70 "A-Cut" finalists and over 120 recorded UTPB top-10 times.

Kainer began his coaching career as an assistant coach at St. Lawrence University (2010-12) and Florida Institute of Technology (2012-13), in addition to serving as the head swim coach and aquatics director at



Northwood Country Club (2012) and the Nitro Swimming national development coach (2013).

The native of Leander, Texas, is a 2010 UTPB graduate with a bachelor's degree in communications and a 2012 graduate from St. Lawrence University with a master's degree in educational leadership. Kainer, in the pool, was a two-year UTPB captain and competed in the 500-Freestyle, 1,000-Freestyle, 1,650-Freestyle, and 400-Individual Medley. He also was president of the UTPB Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.



Screaming Eagles announce 2021-22 men's basketball schedule

USI opens with exhibition at Auburn

SEPTEMBER 2021

The University of Southern Indiana men's basketball team announces the exciting, action-packed 27-game slate for 2021-22 that includes an exhibition visit to Auburn University before the regular season home-opener versus Oakland City University in Screaming Eagles Arena.

The exhibition visit to Auburn is set for November 5 in Auburn, Alabama. The Screaming Eagles will be playing the Auburn Tigers for the first time in the history of the program.

USI tips off the regular season at home for the second-straight season when the Eagles host Oakland City (November 18), the first of a six-game non-conference slate. The Eagles also are hosting a non-conference contest with Loras College (December 9), in addition to making visits to Cedarville University (November 22), Kentucky Wesleyan College (November 24), Northwood University (December 18) and Grand Valley State University (December 20).

The USI-KWC match-up is the second

game of a four-year, home-and-home series and will be the first contest between the two rivals at the Sports Center in Owensboro, Kentucky, since 2013-14.

USI also has an early start to the 20-game Great Lakes Valley Conference slate by hosting the University of Indianapolis November 29 at Screaming Eagles Arena. The remainder of the home GLVC schedule includes Southwest Baptist University (January 8), McKendree University (January 17), the University of Illinois Springfield (January 20), Lewis University (January 22), Rockhurst University (February 3), William Jewell College (February 5), Maryville University (February 17), Missouri University of Science & Technology (February 19), and Lindenwood University (February 26).

The GLVC road schedule begins the first week of December when USI visits Illinois Springfield (December 2) before pausing conference action until the start of the new calendar. USI

resumes the league road campaign with visits to McKendree (January 2) and Lewis (January 4). The balance of the GLVC road games features Lindenwood (January 6), UIndy (January 15), Truman State University (January 27), Quincy University (January 29), Drury University (February 10), Southwest Baptist University (February 12), and the University of Missouri-St. Louis (February 24).

The GLVC Tournament is slated for March 3-6 at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Vadalabene Center in Edwardsville, Illinois. The NCAA II Midwest Regional is set for March 12-15, while the NCAA II Elite Eight quarterfinals and semifinals are at the Ford Center, March 23-26. The national championship game is March 26 at the Ford Center in Evansville, IN.

UE men finalize 2021-22 non-conference XSlate

Purple Aces ready to get back on the court

-continued from page 12

to Fort Myers for three contests between Nov. 22 and 24. Tournament play opens against Rice. The Owls were 15-13 last year, their first season finishing above .500 since going 23-12 during the 2016-17 campaign. In the lone meeting between the programs, the Owls defeated the Aces by a score of 59-54 in the 1997 San Juan Shootout. Game two in Florida will take place against either Vermont or Oakland.

One of the most consistent mid-major programs in the nation, the Catamounts recorded a 10-5 mark in 2021 and won at least 20 games each season between 2007 and 2020. Oakland is coming off of a 12-18 record. UE has not faced either program in its history. The finale in the tournament will pit the Aces against one of the following: Akron, Appalachian State, Delaware, or Fordham.

Evansville remains away from home on Sunday, Nov. 28 with a short trip to Charleston, Illinois to face Eastern Illinois. In a Dec. 9 contest last season, UE put a halt to a 22-game winless streak with a 68-65 win over the Panthers. Three of the next four outings will be held at the Ford Center, starting on December 1 with the Missouri Valley Conference opener. The opponent will be announced with the remainder of the league slate.

Next up on Dec. 4 is a matchup versus Tennessee Tech, marking the first of three OVC opponents in a row. The teams split a home-and-home series in 2011 and 2012 with the road team winning each time. Evansville wrapped up the series with a 62-50 decision in Cookeville and holds an 11-3 edge in the all-time series. A trip to Cape Girardeau, Missouri will pit the Aces against Southeast Missouri State on the 8th before UT Martin heads to the Ford Center for a game on Dec. 18.

Non-conference action wraps up on Dec. 21 with a road game at SMU. In the lone meeting between the squads, the Mustangs came out on the winning end of a 59-57 defensive battle at the Ford Center in 2019.

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions pertaining to county governmental issues contact me.

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Justin Elpers is a candidate for the Vanderburgh County Commission

-continued from page 1

#1. God & Family: A family that prays together stays together.
#2. Public Safety: I will always defend our public safety. I will ensure that they receive the proper resources to make our county safe.

#3. Fewer government regulations equals more opportunity for growth, more jobs, and a better quality of life.

Finally, he said, "I believe that my campaign committee is going to put me in the best position to win. However, we cannot do this alone. We need your help in the coming months to be successful in November 2022."

PERSONAL DATA

Justin Elpers has served on Evansville City Council since 2016. He has been a strong advocate

for job growth, responsible government spending, and supporting our police department.

He is a graduate of Mater Dei High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Indiana. He taught social studies for 14 years. Eleven of those years were with the EVSC at Harrison High School. Currently, he works for Heritage Petroleum in sales selling fuel and lubricants.

Justin and his wife Alisann have been married for fourteen years. They have five children James, Patrick, Charlie, Anni, & Zack. They are expecting their sixth child in September. The Elpers family attends Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Mike O'Daniel is the CCO 2021 "Community Service Awards Luncheon keynote speaker

-continued from page 1

Margot Roehrborn is a mother to Finn and Owen. Margot is married to Wolfi who serves as general manager of the north side and east side D-Patrick collision centers, in addition to D-Patrick Honda. Molly O'Daniel recently moved back to Evansville from Denver, and is engaged to be married to Dylan Krohn. Molly is the president of Lancaster Insurance.

When Mr. O'Daniel isn't working, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, flying his 1978 Cessna

172 airplane, playing tennis, golf, fishing, water skiing, and snow skiing.

This year's COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS are: local attorney Charles L. Berger, retired and The Honorable Vanderburgh Superior Court Judge Rich D'Amour, retired Vanderburgh County Treasurer Susan Kirk, State Senator Veneta Becker, Alex Burton, and Lisa Vaughn and Mayor Winnecke. Our ANNUAL AWARD LUNCHEON will be held at BALLY'S-Evansville on October 20, 2021.

Vanderburgh County Lawmakers: "POWER SCHOLARSHIP" Applications Now Open

-continued from page 8

and they deserve support to take the next step and achieve their goals."

Qualified applicants include nontraditional female students whose education may have been delayed or interrupted, and the committee will consider financial need, personal vision, service to community and post-education plans.

"It can be difficult to make a career change or go back to school after taking time off," said State Rep. Matt Hostettler (R-Patoka). "These scholarships provide a financial boost for Hoosiers who are facing new challenges and academic goals."

The scholarships can be used for the 2022 spring semester. The application deadline is Nov. 15, 2021, and scholarship recipients will be announced on Dec. 17, 2021, with funds granted before Dec. 31, 2021.

To apply for the POWER scholarship and review eligibility requirements, visit inpowercaucus.org/powerscholarship.

"Be caring, but also be persistent": American Legion says Afghanistan veterans will need extra support

-continued from page 2

Olsen and Norton also mentioned that in the month of September, which is National Suicide Prevention Month, the American Legion will be working to unveil a moderated conference call-style meeting for area vets to talk with one another on a weekly basis.

In a September 2020 article, American Legion service officer Ibar J. Romero Jr. said, "If the veteran gave you a peek into their wellbeing and state of mind, they're asking you to help them."

He said if the veteran in your life opens up about struggling, it's then important to ask the hard questions. PTSD can trigger individuals at any given moment or, as Norton described it, you can go from 0 to 60 in a matter of minutes. That's why such a time-sensitive issue requires persistence as much as sensitivity.

"Listen to them, be sensitive, be empathetic, be compassionate, be caring, but also be persistent. There are numerous agencies to assist you, so don't attempt to handle the crisis alone," said Romero.

Overall, Norton and Olsen recommend keeping a close eye on the vets in your life. In Olsen's experience, when discussing how veterans act when struggling, he said, "They go dark, they go quiet, they don't have the initiative to go out."

The best thing you can do, he said, is to "start the conversation."

FOOTNOTE: Ashlyn Myers is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

CenterPoint Energy seeks approval for 335 megawatts of renewable energy serving Southwestern Indiana

-continued from page 1

a cost-effective, stable energy option," said Steve Greenley, Senior Vice President, Indiana Electric Operations for CenterPoint Energy. "We look forward to partnering with Oriden and Origen Energy as they bring these projects to fruition."

In addition to the proposed PPAs, the company has filed and is awaiting an order on two other components of its electric generation transition plan. In February, the company filed a request with the IURC seeking approval to acquire a 300 MW solar array and an additional 100 MW PPA. In June, the company filed an application requesting approval to construct two natural gas combustion turbines to replace portions of its existing coal-fired generation fleet.

"Oriden is proud to support CenterPoint Energy's efforts to diversify their electric generation portfolio and contribute to the future of cleaner energy for its customers," said Masahiro Ogiso, President and CEO of Oriden. "It really takes a team effort with our stakeholders to develop a successful renewable energy project like this. We would like to thank the leadership team at the Vermillion Rise Mega Park and our partners in Vermillion County for supporting this important initiative."

The PPAs totaling 335 MWs represent the next component of the company's Smart Energy Future Plan to meet stakeholder sustainability goals and implement a cost-effective, well-balanced energy mix for its 145,000 customers in southwest Indiana as outlined in last summer's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). In June 2020, CenterPoint Energy presented the IRP results, which illustrated a preferred portfolio including nearly two-thirds of energy generated from renewable resources and includes flexible generation to meet seasonal peak loads. The portfolio seeks to maintain continued reliability while saving electric customers an estimated \$320 million over the 20-year planning period.

Johan Vanhee, Chief Commercial and Procurement Officer with Origen Energy said, "We thank CenterPoint Energy for partnering with Origen Energy to acquire clean power from our solar project in Knox County. We look forward to the completion of the project to assist CenterPoint Energy in meeting the future energy needs of its southwestern Indiana electric customers."

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